Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

five miles northwest. It increased the temperature very perceptibly, showing 10° higher at that hour than any night during the month.

"A large stone, the weight estimated at 1000 pounds, fell fifty miles north of Tucson some weeks ago. The University of Arizona is arranging for its recovery, and it will be brought here. Large numbers of aerolites have lately been found north, and one having small diamonds in it is now on exhibition at the Smithsonian Institution at Washington, the first of the kind ever found." —Telegram to the S. F. *Bulletin.*

Rainfall at Mount Hamilton in the Years 1880–91.

Compiled by A. J. Burnham.

Month.	1880–81	1881–82	1882–83	1883–84	1884–85	1885–86	1886–87	1887–88	1888–89	1889–90	1890–91
	in.	in.	in.	in.	in.	in.	in.	in.	in.	in.	in.
July	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.04	0.00	0.00	0.00
August . . .	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.15	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.02	0.00	0.00
September .	0.00	0.10	0.00	0.65	0.65	0.15	0.00	0.33	0.49	0.00	0.80
October . .	0.00	0.33	6.16	2.15	3.71	0.05	0.60	0.09	0.03	4.38	0.02
November*	0.50	0.91	3.45	1.48	0.01	——	2.82	0.90	3.27	4.69	0.58
December .	9.68	9.72	1.93	2.05	33.84	——	2.34	11.25	4.23	13.19	5.39
January . .	3.51	3.55	3.10	5.60	1.99	——	2.83	10.04	1.04	7.93	1.38
February .	5.99	2.90	3.75	12.76	0.57	1.80	7.80	1.38	1.42	6.60	6.52
March . . .	1.13	5.40	8.66	16.35	1.15	5.77	1.39	3.40	6.17	4.39	4.26
April . . .	0.98	4.70	2.66	11.96	2.08	6.79	5.75	0.68	1.92	1.79	3.08
May	0.09	0.48	7.55	1.24	0.16	0.70	0.25	1.25	3.21	0.00	1.01
June	0.33	1.06	0.00	3.85	0.36	0.00	0.30	0.67	0.00	0.00	0.57
Sums . . .	22.21	29.15	37.26	58.09	44.67	——	24.08	30.03	21.80	42.97	23.61

New Instruments for the Allegheny Observatory.

Through the generosity of Mrs. William Thaw, of Pittsburgh, the Allegheny Observatory is to be provided with a very powerful spectroscope to be made by Mr. Brashear, and a new driving clock for the equatorial has been presented by William Thaw, jr.

For many years the late Mr. Thaw stood ready to forward the researches of the Observatory by providing the delicate apparatus required by the former Director, Professor Langley.

---

* November, 1880—One shower, amount assumed to be 0.50 inches. N. B. December, 1884. Mean Rainfall 1880–1891, 33.38 inches. Mean Rainfall at San José about 13.7 inches.

Mr. THAW'S only condition was that his name should not be mentioned in connection with the gift. But all astronomers knew to whom to attribute "a gift from a friend of the Observatory."

It is eminently fitting that the THAW spectroscope and driving clock should be the first instruments acquired under the present head of the Allegheny Observatory—Professor KEELER.

E. S. H.

THE MILKY WAY IS A SEPARATE SYSTEM OF STARS.

The independent researches of Professor PICKERING at the Harvard College Observatory and of Dr. DAVID GILL, Royal Astronomer at the Cape of Good Hope, have led to the conclusion that the stars of the Milky Way form a veritable sidereal system, separate and individual. This conclusion is entirely opposed to the views which Sir WILLIAM HERSCHEL reached from his earliest observations (1785) which are still pretty generally received by those who have not given much attention to this special question. Miss CLERKE points out in the *Observatory* for September, 1891, page 302, that "the study of nebular distribution might alone, and long ago, have driven out of the field every form of 'projection-theory' of the Milky Way. For it showed the great majority of gaseous nebulæ to be embraced within its circuit, and this alone amounted to a demonstration that a physical reality, and not simply a geometrical appearance, was in question."

The best brief statement of the arguments of Professor PICKERING and of Dr. GILL is contained in a lecture by the latter delivered at the Royal Institution of Great Britain, May 29, 1891, as follows:

"I pass now to another recent result that is of great cosmical interest.

"The Cape photographic star-charting of the southern hemisphere has been already referred to. In comparing the existing eye-estimates of magnitude by Dr. GOULD with the photographic determinations of these magnitudes, both Professor KAPTEYN and myself have been greatly struck with a very considerable systematic discordance between the two. In the rich parts of the sky, that is in the Milky Way, the stars are systematically photographically brighter by comparison with the eye observations than they are in the poorer part of the sky, and that not by any doubtful amount but by half or three-fourths of a magnitude. One of two things was certain, either that the eye observations were